

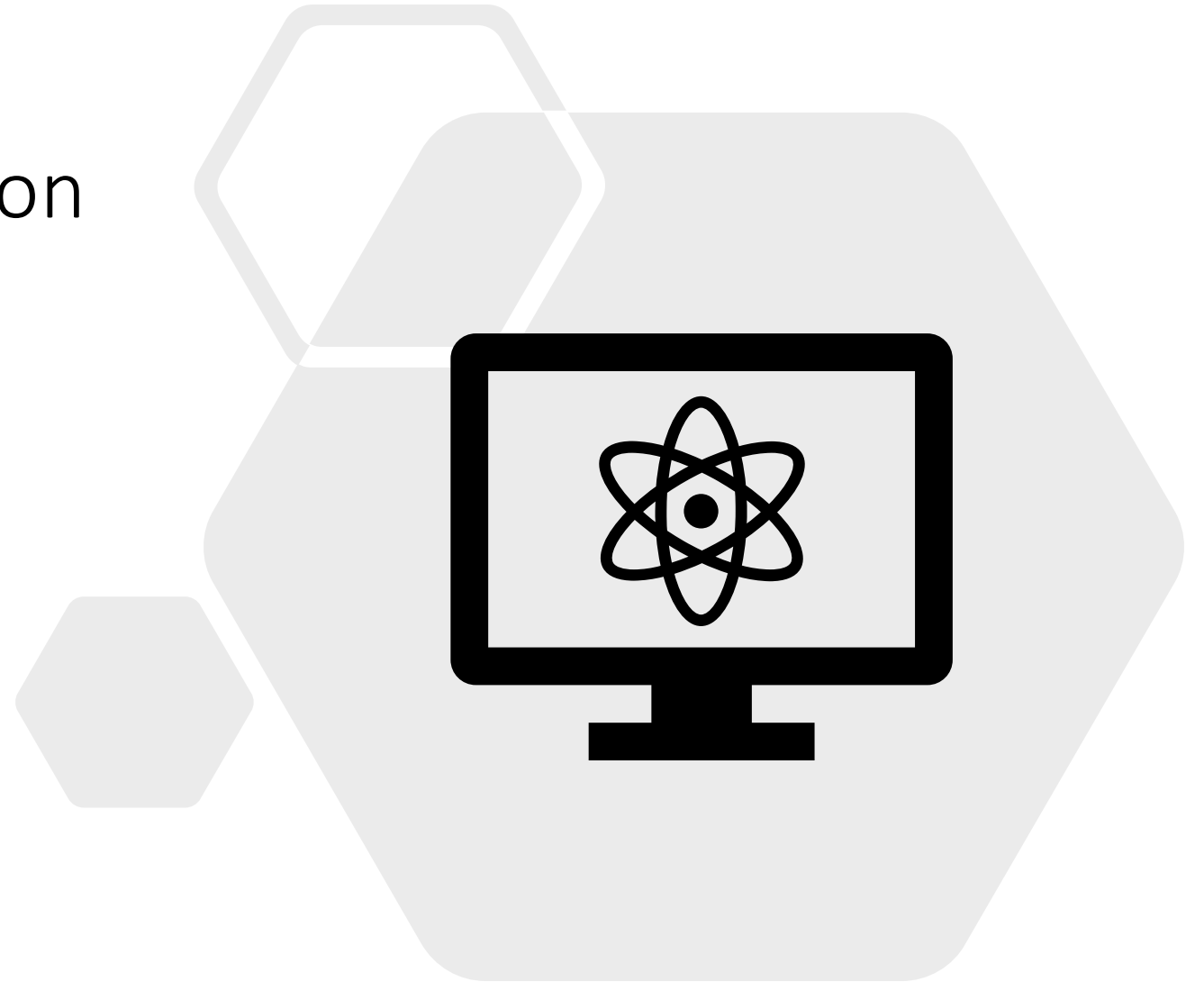
# Heuristic Potential of Actor - Network Theory for Studying Digital Technologies in Secondary Education and their Influence on Educational Inequalities

*Raya Mihaylova, PhD Student, Sofia University*

Bulgarian Comparative Education Society  
XIX Annual International Conference  
New Challenges to Education  
Lessons from Around the World  
Sofia, Bulgaria, 22-25 June 2021

# Studies on digital technologies in education

- Different aspects of their influence, possibilities, effects and challenges
- The need for theoretical lenses and perspectives, in order to understand the effects of the introduction and role of ICT in education



# Rationale and key research question

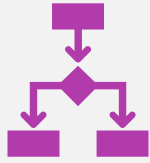
What is the heuristic potential of Actor-network theory and its main concepts for studying digital technologies in education?





Actor-network theory and  
digital technologies as social  
actors

# Heuristic potential of the key concepts in Actor-network theory for studying digital technologies in education



Inscription and translation



Intermediary and mediator



Nonhuman social actors/non-humans



Assemblages



Network

Studies of  
education through Actor-  
network theory

System of fragmented knowledge

Affordances

Cyborgs as a hybrid between human and technology

Protocols and standards. Portfolio.

Educational reforms and changes in the networks. Creation and disintegration of networks.

Researching the  
introduction of  
electronic diaries  
in education  
through Actor-  
network theory



## Acknowledgments

The author gratefully acknowledges the support of the project “Dynamics of inequalities in participation in higher and adult education: A comparative social justice perspective” – JustEdu (2020–2024), funded by the Bulgarian National Science Fund within National Science Program VIHREN, contract number КП-06-ДВ-2/16.12.2019:

<https://justedu2020.eu/>



Thank you for  
your attention!

Raya Mihaylova

[rayamihaylova@ff.uni-sofia.bg](mailto:rayamihaylova@ff.uni-sofia.bg)

